



eNewsletter

Summer 2015

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A message from the Director

We have entered the third quarter of 2015, and business is booming for many in our industry. How long will this economic environment last? If only I could answer that question.

The reality is that the construction industry will eventually slow down, and sales in the precast industry will also slow. In my 25 years in this industry, I have seen a half dozen or so cycles of the bull and the bear. Instead of partying hard now, and simply enjoying the good times, begin now to prepare for the lean times.

One way to prepare is to continue to be innovative. Constantly seek a better way. Look for new products and new industries in which to sell your products. Diversify your product line. Customers will pay for value added products.

Training and educating the workforce is yet another way to make a company more resistant to economic downturns. A well trained workforce can respond quicker to changes, and they are less likely to make costly mistakes. John Maxwell, author and speaker, once asked which is better: “train employees and take the risk that they leave, or to have a team of untrained people.”

Finally, adopt a philosophy of continuous improvement. What got you here won't get you there. If you are not changing, you are falling behind. Small, daily improvements in every area of the business will reduce cost, improve efficiency, and help the bottom line. Think of these improvements as “aerobic exercise” for your company. Just a few minutes a day can add years to the life of any business.

New Power Generation Plant in Ohio

Construction has started on a \$899m natural gas-fired combined-cycle power plant in Carrol County. This is southeast of Canton.

The 700MW facility is being developed by Advanced Power and will eventually be operated by EthosEnergy when it is scheduled to enter service in 2017.

The economic impact to Ohio is \$15m in contracts to local entities. The construction process is expected to

create up to 700 jobs.

It is uncertain how this plant will affect the precast concrete industry. This region of Ohio has seen an increase in economic benefit since the recent “gold rush” in the gas an oil exploration, and the popularity of horizontal drilling. <http://fossilfuel.energy-business-review.com/news/construction-begins-on-700mw-power-generation-facility-in-ohio-220715-4628331>

Related:

http://www.bricker.com/documents/resources/Shale_Economic_Development_Chart.pdf

Ohio Precast Welcomes New Member

Beginning in July, Ohio Precast Concrete Association has a new Associate member. We welcome Matt Werner, commercial insurance consultant for Knight Insurance Group. The following paragraph from Matt will explain what he can do for your business.



provide personal service throughout the policy year. I look forward to working with all members of the association. I am a member of the Ohio concrete association and Michigan concrete association."

"I specialize in writing comprehensive and competitive insurance programs for all concrete industries. A well written program with my long term relationship based insurance carrier makes claim handling quick and easy. I

Matt Werner
 werner@knightinsurance.com
 22 North Erie Street, Toledo, OH 43604
 Toll free: 800.241.5133
 Direct: 419.254.2410

New rules for septic tanks, Don't wait to get on the list

January 1, 2016...

This is the date when the new sewage rules go into effect in the state of Ohio. These rules have been years in the making, and the Ohio Precast Concrete Association was represented very well during the entire process.

Now that the rules are in place, what does a precast plant need to know and/or do to comply?

The first thing that a precaster should do is review the new rules and the new application. These can both be downloaded from the association's website (www.ohioprecastconcrete.org).

Before an application can go through the review process, there are three elements that must be included. First, the application must be completely filled out. Next, any trade secrets need to be disclosed. The information in the application will become a public record accessible to anyone. If a precaster wants to have all or part of the submitted information remain confidential, this must be stated in the application and approved by the ODH Director.

The third element required is information on the septic tanks produced and sold by the manufacturer. The precast producer must identify their method for design and structural capacity for EACH model they produce.

Evidence of compliance with the elements of paragraph (H) of the rule must also be included.

Among the required evidence, This must include:

- Tank structure and physical design
- Materials, special claims, assembly, warranty, etc.
- Assurance review method for strength verification
- Assurance method for watertightness in design
- Field testing procedure for watertightness
- Installation instructions

Evidence of annual precast plant certification is acceptable for meeting the structural and watertightness requirements. Plants that are not certified typically use the product assurance review method. Under this method, testing to prove proof of performance with ASTM C1227 must be performed and a record signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer must be provided.

The proof of performance test is described in section H of the standard. It included watertightness testing using negative pressure (vacuum), along with additional weight being applied to the top of the tank. This is performed with the tank sitting on a bed of sand. Typically, the vacuum will be 4" of mercury for 5 minutes with zero loss of pressure, with a 2,000 pound object displaced uniformly over 4 square feet on the center of the tank.

Slips, Trips, and Falls...The Fatal Four

As the precast industry works through the busy summer season, it is important to address the most common cause of workplace fatalities. Falls are the number one cause of workplace fatalities in construction, and falls represent the number two cause for fatalities in General Industry. (BLS 2013 Data)

In construction, OSHA lists the Fatal Four, with Falls topping the list. Struck by, Electrocutions, and Caught in-between round out the remainder of the list. And while much of the precast operation falls under the general industry standard, some work performed, especially at the job site, does come under the construction standard.

- Guard every floor hole into which a worker can accidentally walk (using a railing and toe-board or a floor hole cover).
- Provide a guard rail and toe-board around every elevated open sided platform, floor or runway.
- Regardless of height, if a worker can fall into or onto dangerous machines or equipment (such as a vat or acid or a conveyor belt) employers must provide guardrails and toe-boards to prevent workers from falling and getting injured.
- Other means of fall protection that may be required on certain jobs include safety and harness and line, safety nets, stair railings and hand rails.

OSHA requires employers to:

- Provide working conditions that are free of known dangers.

- Keep floors in work areas in a clean and, so far as possible, a dry condition.
- Select and provide required personal protective equipment at no cost to workers. Train workers about job hazards in a language that they can understand.

(The above was taken from: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/index.html>)

Why is fall protection important?

Falls are among the most common causes of serious work related injuries and deaths. Employers must set up the work place to prevent employees from falling off of overhead platforms, elevated work stations or into holes in the floor and walls.



What can be done to reduce falls?

Employers must set up the work place to prevent employees from falling off of overhead platforms, elevated work stations or into holes in the floor and walls. OSHA requires that fall protection be provided at elevations of four feet in general industry workplaces, five feet in shipyards, six feet in the construction industry and eight feet in longshoring operations. In addition, OSHA requires that fall protection be provided when working over dangerous equipment and machinery, regardless of the fall distance.

To prevent employees from being injured from falls, employers must:

In the factory, fall protection begins at 4' above the floor. This increases to 6' for the construction standard. At these elevations, planning must take place in order to protect your employees from falling, or arrest their fall when/if it happens.

For more information of fall protection standards, visit www.osha.gov. Feel free to contact Sam Lines at 937.845.2506 to discuss rules, plans, and ways to prevent falls in your plant.

Ohio Precast Concrete Association

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We're on the web!
www.ohioprecast.org

OUR PURPOSE

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association (OPCA) is a group of producer members and associated industries cooperating together as an association. The intent being to bring pertinent issues and information that impact the Precast Concrete Industry, to the attention of government agencies which participate in the origination of these issues.

The OPCA is interested in assisting these agencies by providing expert advice and counsel in the development of regulations involving the industry and the general public.

The OPCA producer and associate members whose products and services range from the construction of buildings and highways to the manufacture of precast concrete products for the treatment of commercial and residential waste water. The OPCA member products and services affect the lives of nearly every Ohioan on a daily basis.

Some specific areas of interest being pursued by the OPCA are as follows:

The introduction of new sewage guidelines relating to the specific construction and operation of home waste water treatment products (septic tanks, aerators, etc.) by the Ohio department of health and the Ohio EPA.

The introduction of programs and policies relating to the testing of materials and products being used on Ohio Department of Transportation projects.

The development of quality control procedures and inspections services training by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association will be expanding its' scope of interest as membership roles grow and diversify. The need for input, regarding issues and regulations which effect the large segment of the public which it serves, comes to the forefront.

OPCA Member Companies

PRODUCER MEMBERS

E.C. Babbert, Inc.
Everly Concrete Products, Inc.
Hanson Pipe and Precast
J.K. Precast, LLC
Lindsay Precast
Mack Industries
MW Concrete
Norwalk Concrete Industries
Premier Precast Products
Quaker City Septic Tanks, LLC
Scioto Valley Precast
Sickels Septic Tanks, Inc.
Spoerr Precast Concrete, Inc.
Stiger Precast, Inc.
Uniontown Septic Tank, Inc.

United Precast Industries, LLC

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A-lok Products, Inc.
A.L. Patterson, Inc.
Blackthorn, LLC
Champion Pump Company
Concrete Sealants, Inc.
EJ USA, Inc.
EMH, Inc.
Engineered Wire Products, Inc.
Essroc Cement Co.
Euclid Chemical
Gotham Staple Co., Inc.
Hamilton Kent, LLC
Hill and Griffith Company
Infiltrator Systems, Inc.

Jet, Inc.

Knight Insurance, Matt Werner
M.A. Industries
Mixer Systems, Inc.
Ohio Electric Control, Inc.
Polylok, Inc. / Zabel Environmental
Premiere Concrete Admixtures, LLC
Press-Seal Gasket Corporation
Sika Corporation
St. Mary's Cement
Tuf-Tite, Inc.
W.P. Hiltz & Company

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Concrete Engineering Solutions
Delta Engineers